



Economic Development Office

May 2022 Call for Public Art

Creative Economy Program: Acton MA Public Art

The Economic Development Office of Acton supports the economic development of our Town. Program areas include business advocacy, business Attraction and workforce development support. One important program area is the Creative Economy. For 2022, we have a new program to support the Creative Economy: May 2022 Call for Public Art.

Program Description

For our May 2022 Call for Public Art, the Economic Development Office is initiating a program where public art will be created, artists will be fairly compensated, and artists will participate in a seminar relevant to life as a working artist. For this call, we will assemble a pool of artists interested in creating outdoor art of the following types: community murals or outdoor benches.

The objective of the art is to invoke a great experience in Acton and serve as a point of connection and inspiration. Artists must be from or have a connection to the local area. The commissioned outdoor bench artists will receive a grant of \$2500. The commissioned outdoor mural artists will received a grant of \$3500. Additionally, up to \$750 is available for materials for either. Installation of the piece will be covered by the Town. The Art will become property of the Town with attribution to the Artist(s). Once all the art work commissioned from this call is installed, there will be an Opening Day event which the artists will attend to be celebrated.

Proposals will be accepted between May 23, 2022 – June 14, 2022. The proposals will be reviewed by a committee comprised of community stakeholders. Submitting your proposal does not guarantee commission. Artists may submit more than one proposal. Artists can submit proposals as a team, if selected, the grant award would be split between the Artists. Artists selected must complete the required paperwork and contract no later than June 27, 2022. Artists must commit to signing their

contracts no later than June 27, 2022. Selected artists must commit to attending the one-hour technical seminar for working artists. The art must be created and installed by December 31, 2022. Comments, questions and concerns should be submitted via email to jpierceonos@actonma.gov.

Applications

To apply to the program, artists must [complete the application form here](#).

Artist Eligibility

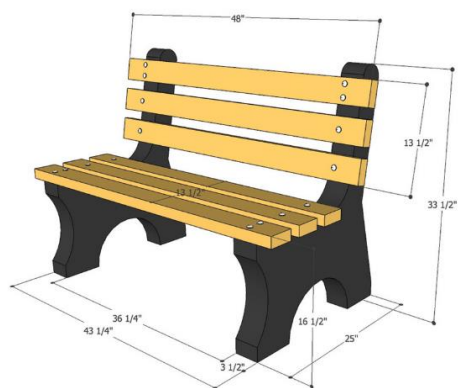
Must be a local artist who is 18 or older.

Specifications by Type of Art

1. Outdoor Bench:

Size Recommendations: Desired size to seat two people. Approximate dimensions:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Seat height from ground: 18-20 inches | Seat back height: 13-24 inches |
| Seat depth: 12-15 inches | Seat length: 36-44 inches |



Proposal Recommendations:

The goal is to have a bench that is both suitable for sitting on and enjoyable to view.

Examples of locations where the bench could be located:

- Kelley's Corner in the small park next to Chase Bank in Acton Plaza
- Along or near the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

- In a retail shopping plaza such as Gould’s Plaza at 260 Great Road; Acton Woods Plaza at the intersection of Great Road and Main Street; Brookside Shopping Plaza at 145 Great Road.
- NARA Park 25 Ledge Rock Way
- Gardner Field and Playground 526 Mass Ave

2. Outdoor Mural:

Size Recommendations: Desired size is to fit on a 10-foot wide garage door or a similar area on the side of a building:

| | |
|--|--|
| Garage Door: 9 feet wide x 7 feet tall | Building: 10 feet wide by 10 feet tall |
|--|--|



Proposal Recommendations:

The goal is to have a community mural which is conceptualized and designed by the artist. The Town would enjoy content that celebrates prominent people, places and organizations from or located in Acton. Then on the day of installation, the artist will block it out and take the lead of helping community members participate in creating it.

Examples of locations where the mural could be located:

- Along or near the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail on the side of a building or garage door visible when exiting the trail
- West Acton Villageworks 525 Mass Ave
- South Acton MBTA Station 4 Central Street

Selection Criteria

We anticipate that the following criteria will be used by the committee when selecting projects:

Artistic quality: Does the artist have a signature style? What is the reputation of the artist for designs that include innovation, excitement, and “wow”?

Technical expertise: Does the artist have experience working at the scale required? Has the artist successfully used the equipment that will be necessary to create the mural for the particular site? Does the artist have the techniques and abilities to create a piece of outdoor art that with minimal required maintenance?

Community engagement experience (for the mural): Does the artist have experience leading a community installation process?

Ease of process: Is the artist pleasant to work with? Is there a reasonable expectation that the project will be completed on time and within budget? Is the budget reasonably accurate?

Timeline

- Release of Call for Art: May 23, 2022
- Deadline to submit proposals for commissions: June 14, 2022
- Technical Seminar: TBD Summer 2022
- Installation Completion: December 31, 2022
- Opening Day Celebration: TBD

Contact Information

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Town of Acton

Creative Economy Program

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